

**The Times-Dispatch**

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1912.

**A WISE ACTION.**

In voting to report unfavorably this morning the Jordan Enabling Act, the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections last night acted for the welfare of the State, and disapproved a referendum principle which would menace the safety, honesty, and well-being of the people far more than it could effect moral betterment. Such prompt and decisive action will clear the way for the disposition of measures of vital importance, if the Senate will, as suggested by the committee, dispose of the bill this week, leaving the last legislative week free for the consideration of those important bills which too long have been neglected and lost sight of in the agitation over the Jordan bill.

**TAX REFORM THE ROOT OF PROGRESS.**

Some members of the House of Delegates would undoubtedly be disheartened with and try to amend the Decalog if it could be on the calendar. With man-made and man-given laws, these obstructors of progress are even more severely critical, advocating a policy of destructiveness and not of constructiveness. Such men fail to realize that no law is perfect in its inception. In its first stage any law is an experiment; it must be tried out, its defects discovered and improvements written into it.

Tax reform, imperatively demanded by the best interests of the Commonwealth, is in danger of legislative death, because certain members think that it is not perfect, and that, therefore, it should be killed. A plenary and searching measure was at first proposed. Objections were made. A substitute bill has been reported, meeting all reasonable objections and effecting a compromise of conflicting views, but still there are those who oppose it and would denature it into a spineless law.

Legislators of this type forget that tax reform is the basis of all State reform; that tax equalization is the foundation upon which a progressive State policy must be laid. Ohio and other advanced States have learned this lesson and made justice in taxation their first step forward, with the result that from that very first reform have flowed many other progressive policies and benefits. No State can be progressive and modern if its tax system is unscientific and unjust. No matter what reforms and policies a State may have, it cannot be advanced if it has omitted tax reform.

The features of the measure which were regarded as oppressive and too drastic have been removed. The bill is not directed at individuals, but seeks equalization between counties and counties and cities and cities. The force of the proposed Tax Commission would be moral and advisory.

Physical force is not contemplated by the bill. Moral suasion is its chief working principle. The existence and nations of a Tax Commission would sustain and assist local assessment officers in reaching fairer conclusions and making more just valuations. The Tax Commission would be a staff for such officers to lean upon. The searchlight of its duty better, if such a body existed, the local assessing officer would have a good excuse to give to those influential persons who protest against their fair assessments. "The Tax Commission is advising me about assessments in this community, and I can't let you down," he can say.

Tax equalization has worked wonders in an overwhelming majority of the States. In West Virginia the tax rate is a little more than one-fourth what it was before tax equalization was adopted as a policy by the State. Similar has been the experience elsewhere, but Virginia lags in the rear of the procession, at the opposite end from the modern and progressive States. Less than half a dozen States are without tax equalization. Virginia is one of them.

The General Assembly will commit a tremendous error if at this session it shall refuse to enact a tax equalization measure. Tax reform is demanded by the people, and the consequences of a failure to act will be far more serious than legislators realize. "The trouble about government is that it is not conducted in the light," said Speaker Byrd in the debate on the tax bill the other day. When the people are more fully informed of the benefits of tax reform, when they comprehend the obstacles which have been placed in the path of tax reform in Virginia, they will hold their representatives to strict account, and will inquire of them the reasons for blocking the most beneficial reform proposed in the Commonwealth in a decade. When the light is turned on, and it will be—watch the obstructors

**VIRGINIA'S FIRE RISK.**

The State Library Board has appraised the Legislature of Virginia of the absolutely unprotected condition in which the priceless manuscripts of the library are now lying. Viewed from a purely commercial standpoint, these manuscripts are probably worth from a half million dollars upwards. It would be considered an act of sacrilege to offer them for sale, and rightly so, for those manuscripts are the source of our history. The State cannot afford to lose them; the Legislature cannot afford to take any risk that might result in their loss. The history of a great civilization as developed in Virginia remains to be written, and the sources of that history, the very facts upon which it is based, lie in those unprotected documents, and there alone.

The need for protecting these manuscripts far transcends the borders of Virginia, or the work of one Legislature. These old records contain facts and history that belong to all the world, and to the world Virginia owes the duty of their protection.

An appropriation of \$5,000 has been asked to insure for Virginians in future days the accuracy of their State's history. Six thousand dollars is less than 1-10 of 1 per cent. of the appropriations that the Legislature will make at this session.

The Times-Dispatch thoroughly understands the difficult problem raised by large demands and small resources, but we do not believe that any member of the Legislature who appreciates the immense importance of this request could vote against it. Nor do we believe that the Legislature would undertake to preserve the records of Virginia's past history by taking from the appropriation to the library the necessary sum for this essential work. Surely, Virginians of to-day should not be penalized because of the greatness of Virginians in past generations!

If the members who are now being pressed upon from so many sources and with such insistence were to consider the state of their own feelings were these documents to be destroyed by fire, there could be no doubt as to the speed and readiness with which the requested sum would be given.

Let us hope that Virginia may never mourn the loss of her records, and that the Legislature may never feel hopeless regret for an oversight that could have been remedied. Certainly, the loss of these records can, by a few thousand dollars, be put beyond all risks of fire, and for the Legislature to understand this, we are assured, means the granting of the needed money.

**ITALY'S LEVANT NAVAL DEMONSTRATIONS.**

The sensational feature of the cablegrams late-appearing in the papers was that Italian war ships have bombarded Beirut, Syria, sunk two of the enemy's—Turkish—vessels, destroyed considerable property in the town, killed sixty residents thereof, and wounded many more, and that the Porte had appealed to Great Britain to interfere. All of this sensation is officially denied, except as to the statement regarding the sinking of the two vessels—a gunboat and a torpedo boat—and the appeal to Great Britain. There appears to have been no bombardment of the place—no shelling of it. At the last the Italian commander did nothing more than Dewey did at Manila, and his action would seem as fully justified as was that of the American admiral.

Touching the question of interference by Great Britain, why should she or any other power interfere? Certainly not on the ground of humanity, in the name of which there have, in the past, been so many outside interferences, with the result of expanding the area of wars, and increasing their cost and horrors. The purpose of the Italian naval demonstrations in the Levant, as avowed by the government in the debate in the Italian Parliament on the royal decree annexing Tripoli, is to shorten the war, which is costing Italy \$100,000 a day, by sea nothing of the blood that is being shed in Tripoli, that must continue to be shed until Turkey is brought to terms, and the suffering from disease and death through disease entailed upon the Italian invading army.

The naval demonstration policy, it was stated, is directed to forcing Turkey to give title to Tripoli and Cyrene, in the hope, and in a measure, a very reasonable hope, that the final cessation, or concession, will obviate the necessity of such a long blood and revenue-draining campaign as was the harrowing portion of France in making good her title to Algeria. It took France some three decades to conquer and pacify her Algerian possession.

The sincerity of the Italian government's avowals and hope is attested by the inactivity of the Italian army of occupation in Tripoli. For several weeks the general in command has been content to hold his own, and has made practically no aggressive demonstrations. The longer the Turkish-Italian conflict continues and the semi-barbarian and fanatical tribes of the Tripolitan hinterland know that resistance on their part is sanctioned by Turkey, the greater the danger of there appearing upon the scene such a leader and organizer as Abdel Kadir, who for so many years held the French at bay in Algeria, or the development of the present resistance into "a holy war" that might sweep east through Algeria and Morocco, west to, if not over, the border of Egypt, and south to and through the Sudan.

Regardless of the question whether Italy's coup, can or cannot be morally justified, and facing squarely the situation as it is, Italy is in Tripoli and Cyrene to stay.

shriveled. Ignorance and personal ambition cannot long check progress.

their annexation is an accomplished fact of history and destiny, and there is no more chance of her being ousted than of Great Britain's being ousted from Egypt, or France from Algeria. More than that, her prestige and her safety in the newly acquired territory demand that she dominate the hinterland. This she must and will do.

From her viewpoint—from the viewpoint of her every interest—Italy's Levant naval diversions are wise and defensible, and from the viewpoint of humanitarianism and, perhaps, the preservation of the peace of Europe, it would seem wise for the powers not to interfere with her, so long as the rights and the lives of their own citizens or subjects are not endangered.

In seeking a way out at the least sacrifice of life and treasure to herself, Italy is pointing the way to forestall what might, through the prolongation of hostilities and the intrusion of now extraneous issues, eventuate in the involvement of one or more, if not all, of the European nations.

That way is hands off by the powers, that peace, when it comes, be at the price of a war to which the present one is comparatively insignificant so far.

**WOMAN'S LEGAL HOLIDAY.**

It's strange that in all the calendar there is only one holiday absolutely for women. It's to-day—Leap Year Day. In theory, it is the day Father Time allows for the lazy sun to catch up with its somewhat monotonous schedule; but in fact, it is the day convention allows for women to catch up with elusive man. The rest of the time they have to be content with Eve's. It comes only once every four years because the sex has a natural antipathy to frequent birthdays.

The world for twenty-four hours is woman's sphere. Old adages work both ways. Woman proposes and man disposes. And a ring on the hand is worth two in the jeweler's window. Too many nooks spoil the troth. Quite a tosy-turvy business. The Rockefeller Bible Class but yielded politely to the inevitable when it made first on its list of qualities for an ideal girl that she should do the proposing. But the secret is they were talking only about an ideal girl. The real ones will still wait to be won. And bless them, they're worth working for 365 days every year.

But the Fourth of July has been made safe and sane, and most men will find Leap Year Day equally safe. Woman's rights has not yet claimed the rite of proposing. Yet skittish bachelors might wisely avoid the cozy corner and conservatory. They might be alarmed, not by the popping of firecrackers, but by the equally startling popping of the question.

Since to-day is the one gift day we get in four years, please, Mr. Weather Man, be kind and send one of pure gold like yesterday. And add a robin or two for music.

The Colonel's hat will look funny after the steam-roller has been over it.

This Legislature hath a riming ear. It has had an anti-hypnotism bill, an anti-hypnotism bill, an anti-hypnotism bill, and an anti-hypnotism—no, that doesn't rhyme, after all.

Uncle Simpson Pepper says as soon as he swears off smoking, he begins to keep eatin' peppermint candy, so what's the difference. A man's jest naturally got to have some basis.

For T. R.'s Vice-President—Dr. Cook!

The egg trust is broken. Farmers tried to make millions, and shipped so many eggs in for forty-cent prices that they knocked the bottom out of the market. They scrambled just like other trusts, and now they cannot unscramble.

China is a nation at last. She has issued an ultimatum.

That's a beautiful sounding revolution in Mexico. Somebody ought to set the press dispatches to music, and we'd have a new opera—comic opera.

The chicken bill in the House is going to permit the detention of chickens that trespass, and requires their redemption. We have observed that most trespassing chickens are detained in such savory fashion that their redemption is not a matter of here, but hereafter.

It does not take a profound person to be a clairvoyant. We can read the future, even to foretelling death. Every business man knows that within two months the office boy's grandmother is going to expire some sunny afternoon, absolutely without previous warning.

Ring around the Rooster.  
Pocket full of prey.  
Taft be nimble, Taft be quick,  
Taft jump over the Scandal-Stick.  
Note: Taft be nimble, Taft be quick, is, of course, not true—not by a judicial temperament and 150 pounds. It's irony, guaranteed under the Post's License and Mother Goose Act, Copyright Number 1912.

**VERSE FOR TO-DAY**

Dead Roses.  
"Come, plant these roses here," she said,  
And gaily tossed her saucy head,  
But when in their early bed,  
While she was planting love instead!  
The dainty perfume which they shed,  
My tender passion fanned and fed,  
I kissed her lips, so rosy red,  
While on her cheeks the roses bled.  
A lonely life since then I've led;  
Long years have passed with heavy tread;  
But she (false fairy) now is dead.  
The roses and my love are dead!  
—MORRIS LEWIS.

**On the Spur of the Moment**  
By Roy K. Moulton

A Congealed Salute.  
I love to hear the sleigh bells ring,  
And zip across the snow  
Behind the good old pickled mare, as  
fast as she can gallop.  
I love to have my tail along, I drive  
with one hand, see?  
Because whenever I do that the other  
arm is free.  
Hank took his sweetheart out  
one winter night to ride  
And he was proud of the fair girl  
a-sittin' by his side.  
They got out on the country road; it  
was a dream of bliss.  
With one near, he got real bold  
and asked her for a kiss.  
Of course she acted back-ward like and  
chawed the rag a bit.  
But Hank had got his courage up,  
there was no doubt of it.

So Hank he grabbed her 'round the  
waist; it was so doggone cold.  
She didn't have the heart to scream,  
and 'e'n forgot to scold.  
Of course, she wanted to be hugged, as  
most all sweethearts do.  
But still she couldn't let Hank think  
she ever wanted to.  
So after rassin' round a while, Hank  
bussed her on the nose.

And then he found it was so cold that  
kiss just up and froze.  
Hank couldn't get away from her; she  
couldn't shake off Hank.  
And all that they could do was sit  
and yank and yank.  
So finally it got real late, 'bout 9  
o'clock at night.  
And Hank and her both knew that  
they were in an awful plight.

With his free hand Hank turned the  
team and headed back for town.  
He drove right to the parson's house,  
the parson helped them down.  
You see Hank couldn't use his mouth,  
so he talked on his hands.  
And told the parson: "Go ahead and  
tie the wedding bands."  
The knot was tied. The parson, who  
had quite a tender heart,  
Let Hank and her get by the stove till  
they had thawed apart.  
That happened quite a spell ago, when  
him and her was wed.  
That froze her was Hank's good  
luck, he many times has said.  
It was a happy marriage and Hank  
surely struck it right.  
But Hank and her ain't never been  
sleigh ridin' since that night.

Things to Think About.  
Enough steel is wasted in talking  
machine needles every year to build  
a battleship.  
Ninety per cent. of the celluloid col-  
lars manufactured in this country at  
the present time are being worn by  
book agents.  
There are now 575,282 vaudeville  
performers singing, "Oh, You Beau-  
tiful Doll."  
A Pennsylvania convict has become  
a poet. This is a reversal of the usual  
order.  
Scientists say the world will come  
to an end in 5271 which will give  
Captain Hobson plenty of time to pull  
off his war with Japan.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.  
There was a bad fire the other night  
in Anse Purdy's corner, but Wide-  
Awake Hose Company. It was ex-  
plained that the company's uniform  
skirts have been in the laundry and  
the members would not appear without  
the proper regalia. Anse tried to  
form a bucket brigade, but his wife  
had soft soap in all the pails around  
the house and wouldn't allow 'em to  
be disturbed. It was a terrible con-  
flagration while it lasted and one  
life was putty high lost. When the  
fire was at its height, it was discovered  
that Uncle Ezra Peters was in-  
side and had been there three days  
hidin' from his wife. He didn't dare  
come out, for his wife was in the  
crowd watchin' the fire, but was  
dragged out unscathed and inconspic-  
uous, having lost his self respect and  
most of his whiskers. Uncle Ezra is  
now on the road to recovery, but will  
be a long time before he can get his  
whiskers grow out.

Hank Purdy says the cost of livin'  
surely must be gettin' higher in Wash-  
ington as Congress is receiving so  
many bills lately.  
Senator Rogers was appointed a com-  
mittee by his lodge to buy downers  
for a singer who appeared in our  
midst recently, and the hothouse feller  
sent the bill direct to Rod's house,  
and Rod is doin' more useless explain-  
in' than as though he had discovered  
the North Pole.

I see they have finally broke all  
the flyin' machine records. If they  
would only break all the talkin'  
machine records there would be some  
class to it.  
Hi Higgins has had an anker tat-  
toed on his arm, which shows that  
Hi has reformed and is going to lead  
a straight life and never be a fugi-  
tive from justice.

**Voice of the People**

Need of Fire Protection in Library.  
Open Letter to Hon. Richard E. Byrd,  
Speaker, House of Delegates.  
My Dear Mr. Byrd—I greatly fear  
this Legislature will adjourn without  
making appropriation for fire protec-  
tion of the manuscripts in the State  
Library. Indeed, unless some very  
effective work be done at this time it  
will not be done.

This, in my judgment, would be a  
mistake of the gravest character. The  
man who is charged with the responsi-  
bility for the protection of these man-  
uscripts in the State Library, should  
this property of inestimable value be destroyed  
by fire, the Chamber of Commerce, yet it  
shows very conclusively the very in-  
temperate and vehement animosity of  
the Anti-Saloon League to all who  
honestly differ with them in regard  
to the beneficial results of State-wide  
prohibition.

They seem to regard all who do  
not follow in their procession, as  
miserable, mercenary wretches and  
undesirable citizens.  
They seem to overlook the fact that  
the fault is not in the moderate use of  
liquor, but in its abuse, which is the  
fruitage of moral delinquency in per-  
sonal character. I am, therefore,  
of the opinion that a heavy fine or im-  
prisonment should be the penalty for  
appearing on the streets or public  
places under the influence of liquor.  
Therefore I favored the settlement  
of this question of State-wide prohi-  
bition, by a vote of the Legislature.  
I see such a determination to  
outlaw those who differ, I fear the  
evil consequences of such an election,  
and sincerely hope the calm justice  
and wisdom of the Senate will defeat  
it.  
PHILIP F. BROWN,  
Blue Ridge Springs, February 25.

A Southerner for the Presidency.  
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—Not since the days of Recon-  
struction has the duty of Democracy  
been so apparent as it is at present.  
The unity and strength of the party  
revolving in one swift channel, with-  
out a break or quibble, is the goal to  
which all forces should bend their  
energies.  
The time seems at hand when the  
ranks of the Republican party shall  
once more be shattered and fall be-  
fore the fury of its opponents. The  
party has separated into many fac-  
tions of ideals and choices, and as a  
whole it is ceasing to exist as such.  
Under such conditions, what oppor-  
tunity will the stronghold of Demo-  
cracy apply itself in order to bring  
the divided factions into support of  
its party?  
Is the Democratic party to bring

**TODAY IS LEAP YEAR PROPOSAL DAY.**  
(INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEGINNERS.)  
By John T. McCutcheon.



First read instructions carefully, then rig up a cozy corner, and then subsidize younger brother into effacing himself for indefinite period.



Array self with appropriate gorgeousness and appear surprised when HE arrives. When HE sits down tell HIM that HE has the most uncomfortable chair in the room and that HE simply must come in and see the new cozy corner.



Tell HIM you and mamma have fixed up the cozy corner so that papa could have a comfy place to smoke. (This will show HIM that thoughtfulness is a family trait.) Also casually refer to the fact onstrate that married bliss runs in the family.) Then discover that the lamp is smoking and turn it down. The family album is a good excuse for close harmony.



Another saving in kerosene will give the psychological degree of dimness and some palm reading will help considerably. Tell HIM that HE is never going to be married and will live to be 80. That will scare HIM. A few moments for reflection and then POP.

bers who would be responsible for  
such a calamity could make satisfactory  
answer to the people of Virginia.  
The New York fire should be a  
warning. As Virginia has more his-  
tory than New York, so should the  
members who contain the sources of infor-  
mation, as to her history are more valu-  
able than the New York collection,  
which went up in smoke.  
A member of the Legislature would  
think with horrors from a sugges-  
tion that those papers, even though  
they would be richly regarded as  
nothing short of sacrilege. How,  
then, as a simple business matter, can  
such property be longer left unprotected?  
The Library board has ascertained  
that it will require \$5,000 to protect  
these papers. This would not be an  
annual charge on the state. It would  
cover the needs for the future as well  
as the present in that particular.  
The Chamber of Commerce, yet it  
shows very conclusively the very in-  
temperate and vehement animosity of  
the Anti-Saloon League to all who  
honestly differ with them in regard  
to the beneficial results of State-wide  
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They seem to regard all who do  
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Therefore I favored the settlement  
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bition, by a vote of the Legislature.  
I see such a determination to  
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evil consequences of such an election,  
and sincerely hope the calm justice  
and wisdom of the Senate will defeat  
it.  
PHILIP F. BROWN,  
Blue Ridge Springs, February 25.

self into the boundary of defeat by  
falling into numerous rings of ideas,  
platforms and choices of men? We  
trust that this will not be the case.  
May the party consider well the man  
who is to lead the destiny of Demo-  
cracy in its coming election. May the  
stand taken be one in which there  
will be no cause for loss of conscience  
to the people. May it be one in which  
the spirit of unity and purpose will  
so command all men as to enable them  
to stand as brother to brother or  
father to son.  
Not in years has the prospects for  
a victorious campaign been so con-  
vincing as the one fast approaching.  
May all men of true citizenship act  
for justice and right.  
In the last fifty years the South has  
been whirling wheels of progress al-  
most beyond the vision of mortal eye.  
It has brought itself to a situation  
that is destined to adorn the pinnacle  
of eminence in the world of achieve-  
ment. While this step has been con-  
stant, the drift back into the political  
arena has not been unequal. The time  
is here when the South should rise up  
in one common union and set the pace  
of Democracy rolling through the  
veins of Southern channels. Let the  
Southern States again send her sons  
in the highest seat of which mortal skill  
can boast. To accomplish this, it must  
command unity, purpose and one com-  
mon aim. Grant that it may be so.  
ALDRIDGE HENLEY,  
Williamsburg.

**QUERIES & ANSWERS**

A Date.  
Please tell me what day of the week  
was October 1, 1904. MERCHANT,  
Monday.

Grand Opera.  
Please define for me the phrase  
"grand opera." E. F. C.

A musical composition in which the  
action of some incident, preferably he-  
roic or mythological, is sung with in-  
strumental accompaniment.

Addresses of Millionaires.  
Please give the names and addresses  
of two or three millionaires. MISS B. F.

Mrs. Hetty Green, John D. Rockefeller,  
Thos. F. Ryan, New York City is  
sufficient address for all.

The Confederacy.  
Can any one give the name of the  
firm who sold President Davis's ef-  
fects after he left Richmond in 1865,  
or any information about Boyle, Gam-  
ble & McFee, sword-makers here or  
about Leech & Rigdon or Smith & Rig-  
don, revolver-makers? MISS

Will some one be good enough to  
reply?

Card Playing in Public Places.  
I see in a city paper the statement  
that there is no law in Virginia against  
playing cards in public places unless  
money is bet on the game. IS THIS  
TRUE?

In the Code of Virginia the words  
which forbid card playing in public  
places neither make nor intend any  
reference to stakes.

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